

ULTRA-PORTABLES

INTRODUCTION

All notebooks are portable to some extent, and even bulky desktop replacement models can be taken on a short trip. However, if you need to carry a computer with you regularly, and especially if you use one while you're travelling, you'd be better off with an ultra-portable notebook.

Ultra-portable notebooks are designed to be small and light, with batteries that will keep them running for some time when away from a power socket. This isn't to say that they aren't powerful, though. Many have dual-core processors and ample memory, allowing them to take on tasks you'd normally associate with desktop PCs.

This month we've looked at eight ultra-portable notebooks. They range from pocket powerhouses with dual-core processors to super-lightweight business PCs with low-voltage processors that can eke the longest possible life out of a battery. Some even include fingerprint scanners and 3G internet connections. Whatever you need from your notebook, we'll help you find a perfect, portable computer to match.

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TRAVEL LIGHT

The new generation of ultra-portable notebooks make computing on the move easier than ever before. We test eight models that are heavy on power and light on bulk

Choosing an... Ultra-Portable Notebook

They may be small, but there's lots to consider when buying an ultra-portable notebook. Before buying, it's a good idea to think about how you'll use your new computer. Perhaps you want a computer that's powerful, but that can be moved easily from place to place. Alternatively, you might need a computer you can use all day without recharging the battery. The way you'll be using your notebook will determine which features you need to look for.

WEIGHTY ISSUES

A smaller and lighter notebook is easier and less tiring to carry. In fact, it's amazing how much difference a few hundred grams can make to your shoulder by the end of a long day. All the notebooks here weigh under 2kg, but there's a significant difference between the lightest, at 1.2kg, and the heaviest, at 1.9kg. If you'll be carrying spare batteries, these will add to the weight: an average spare battery weighs around 350g.

POWER CUT

The batteries used by the notebooks in this test vary widely in size and capacity. The battery makes up a significant proportion of the weight of a notebook, so some manufacturers use smaller batteries to keep the

notebook small and light. Others have used larger battery packs that hold more power, and Acer has included a choice of two batteries.

It's important to note that choosing the notebook with the largest battery does not guarantee the best battery life. Different notebooks use different amounts of power, and a notebook with a small battery can run for hours if its power consumption is very modest. The graph to the right shows the amount of power, in watt hours, held by each notebook's battery, and their power consumption, in watts, during our light-usage test. Samsung's Q40, HP's nc2400 and Lenovo's ThinkPad proved to be the most power-efficient. You'll find the results of our battery-life tests on page 79.

If you want to work on the move all day, you'll almost certainly need extra batteries. Our reviews explain when extra larger-capacity batteries are available for each notebook, and you'll find full details and prices in our table on pages 80-81.

PORTABLE POWER

Portable notebooks need not be sluggish when it comes to running demanding applications. We ran our standard set of application benchmarks on each model, and were pleasantly surprised by the results. Several



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notebooks in this group are powerful enough to take on demanding applications, and even the slowest will happily run the kind of applications needed for office work or surfing the web. The benchmark results on page 79 show which are the most powerful, and which will struggle slightly with tasks such as video editing.

Many notebooks can play modern 3D games, but the graphics chips they use for this require more power. For this reason, most notebooks here use an integrated graphics processor. These are fine for most purposes, but not for playing games. Sony's Vaio is unusual. It has a graphics processor and can just about play modern games with the detail levels reduced, but you can also revert to onboard graphics to save battery life. If you really need a tiny notebook that can play games, it's a good compromise.

KEY ISSUES

If you work on text documents regularly, a poor keyboard will be far more problematic than a slow processor. We thoroughly tested each keyboard here to see if it was suitable for typing long documents. Our reviews explain which are great to work with and which will leave you wringing your hands.

Most of the notebooks here use standard touch pads to control the cursor. HP's and Lenovo's notebooks use a touch stick instead. These are more convenient if you use the mouse

only occasionally, know Windows shortcuts and work mainly on office documents. If you want to edit photos or use other mouse-intensive tasks, though, you'll probably prefer a touch pad.

MORE IN STORE

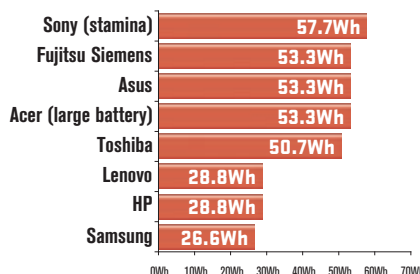
The Acer and Samsung notebooks in this test don't have a built-in DVD drive. This will be no problem if you occasionally want to install software or create a backup disc, but if you use DVDs regularly you might find them

inconvenient. More unusually still, Lenovo's ThinkPad has no DVD drive at all. Most users will need to budget around £40 for an external DVD drive so they can install software from disc.

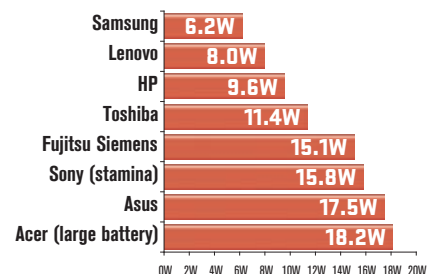
The hard disks here range in size from 60GB to 120GB. They're all big enough for office work, but if you need to store media files you should choose one of the 100GB or 120GB models. Some have shock protection, which detects when the notebook is dropped and parks the disk heads to avoid damage.

Power trip Battery capacity and power consumption

Battery capacity



Power consumption



A battery's life is determined by its capacity in watt hours (left) and the power consumption of the notebook itself (right). Despite having the smallest battery, Samsung's Q40 has one of the best battery lives thanks to its modest power consumption



ACER TravelMate 3043WTMi

★★★★

£1,070 inc VAT

We last reviewed the TravelMate 3043WTMi in *Labs, Shopper* March 2007. It impressed us then, so we wanted to see how it compares to the latest ultra-portable notebooks.

FEATURES

The chassis has an unusual silver-green finish, and doesn't feel very sturdy. It's slender and tapers from back to front, but it weighs 1.8kg. This isn't that impressive when you consider that it has no built-in optical drive.

An external DVD that plugs into the FireWire port is included. There are three USB2 ports, a memory card reader and a CardBus slot. There's a Gigabit Ethernet port for fast Gigabit networking, and Bluetooth as standard. The 120GB hard disk is the biggest here.

The whole keyboard flexes as you type and feels a little cramped. The keystroke is shallow, so typing long documents could become tiring. The 12.1in widescreen display isn't particularly bright, but its anti-glare finish makes it suitable for use in most lighting conditions. There's a built-in webcam above the screen.

PERFORMANCE

The Intel Core 2 Duo T5500 processor can complete most tasks quickly. You could even take on demanding tasks such as video editing. It scored 132 overall in our benchmarks.

The TravelMate comes with two batteries. The smaller one sits flush with the chassis, but lasts for a meagre one-and-a-half hours. The larger battery lasts for almost three hours, but extends an additional 20mm from the chassis. You'll have to swap batteries regularly to keep both charged.

VERDICT

The TravelMate scored four stars when we last tested it. However, compared to the many better notebooks in this group it's rather average.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Big hard disk
- ✗ External optical drive
- ✗ Poor keyboard

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK Intel Core 2 Duo T5500, 1GB RAM, 120GB disk, Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 12.1in widescreen LCD, 1.7kg
PART CODE LX.TFQ06.044
SUPPLIER www.laptopsdirect.co.uk
DETAILS www.acer.co.uk



ASUS W5F

★★★★★

£1,158 inc VAT

Asus' W5F is a great-looking notebook. Its graphite-coloured chassis and blue LEDs make it the most stylish computer here.

FEATURES

The W5F is slender for a notebook with a built-in optical drive. Despite this it feels sturdy, with the chassis barely flexing under pressure. Inside there's a 100GB hard disk, giving you plenty of storage for large media files.

The keyboard takes up almost the full width of the chassis, so the keys are a good size. It's one of our favourite keyboards in the group. The touch pad has an unusual bumpy texture and neatly integrated buttons.

There are plenty of ports around the edges of the chassis, including three USB2 ports. There's also an ExpressCard/54 slot for expansion cards. The headphone socket has a dedicated volume control beside it, so you don't have to fiddle with keyboard short cuts.

The W5F has a 12.1in widescreen display with a native resolution of 1,280x800 pixels. It's bright and has good contrast, but the gloss finish means that you may suffer from unwanted reflections when outdoors or under office lighting. The built-in webcam allows you to conduct videoconferences.

PERFORMANCE

The W5F is one of the fastest notebooks in the group. Its Intel Core 2 Duo T5600 processor and 1GB of RAM make it ideal for tough tasks such as photo manipulation or video editing.

The battery lasted for just over three hours in our light-usage test, but there are no larger-capacity batteries available. This is perhaps unsurprising, as even the standard battery extends from the rear of the chassis by 20mm.

VERDICT

The W5F is a stylish and powerful ultra-portable notebook with all the features you're ever likely to need. It's not particularly light, though, and its battery isn't great.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Fast in applications; great keyboard
- ✓ Big hard disk; built-in optical drive
- ✗ Quite heavy

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK Intel Core 2 Duo T5600, 1GB RAM, 100GB disk, Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 12.1in widescreen LCD, 1.8kg
PART CODE W5F-G0071P
SUPPLIER www.laptopsdirect.co.uk
DETAILS <http://uk.asus.com>



FUJITSU SIEMENS Amilo V3205

★★★★★

£727 inc VAT

The Amilo V3205 is the cheapest notebook in this test by a long way, so we were rather worried that it might not be up to the job.

FEATURES

The Amilo's black chassis isn't terribly exciting to look at, but it feels sturdy. It has a decent range of ports, including a DVI output and optical S/PDIF for connecting to a digital display and surround-sound amplifier respectively. Its expansion slot accepts the newer ExpressCard/54 cards.

The keyboard is less impressive, as it flexes when you type. There's also little travel in the individual keys. There are no undersized keys, though, and the blue indicator lights beside the Numlock and Capslock keys are a nice touch. The touch pad is big and wide, but its buttons need more feedback.

The screen has a glossy finish that makes colours more vibrant, but it suffers from unwanted reflections. Its native resolution of 1,280x800 pixels is sufficient for most tasks, and the image quality is acceptable. A DVD writer is built in, but there's only a small 60GB hard disk.

PERFORMANCE

The Intel Core Duo T2050 processor can't keep up with the newer Core 2 Duo processors, so the Amilo lagged behind the leaders in our video-encoding benchmark. However, it's the paltry 512MB of memory that really holds this notebook back. We recommend immediately upgrading it to 1GB.

The battery lasted for around three and-a-half hours, which is fine for occasional use.

VERDICT

The Amilo isn't particularly light and it needs more memory, but it is a reasonably good ultra-portable notebook for the price. Fujitsu Siemens plans to withdraw this model soon, so if you want one we recommend buying now before stock runs out.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Built-in optical drive
- ✓ Inexpensive
- ✗ Poor keyboard; quite heavy

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK Intel Core Duo T2050, 512MB RAM, 60GB disk, Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 12.1in widescreen LCD, 1.9kg
PART CODE VFY:APED320564E1GB
SUPPLIER www.laptopshop.co.uk
DETAILS www.fujitsu-siemens.co.uk



HP Compaq nc2400

★★★★★

£1045 inc VAT

HP's Compaq nc2400 is a serious ultra-portable notebook designed for business use. It's not the quickest in applications, but it's well equipped for use on the road.

FEATURES

The nc2400 has a fingerprint reader below the keyboard. Fingerprint technology has its faults, but it is easier to log in with a swipe of a finger than it is to type a long password. The keyboard is excellent. The keys have enough travel and give plenty of feedback, making it suitable for typing long documents. The nc2400 uses a touch stick in the middle of the keyboard rather than a touch pad. This works well once you've got used to it.

This is the smallest notebook in the group to have a built-in optical drive, making it a better choice than the ThinkPad if you need to read or write CDs or DVDs regularly. The hard disk holds only 60GB of data, but it does have shock protection. When in use the nc2400 makes barely any noise at all, and the bottom stayed cool during our tests.

There aren't many ports for attaching peripherals, with only two USB2 ports and no memory card reader. The expansion slot takes the older, but more common, CardBus format.

PERFORMANCE

The low-voltage Intel Core Duo U2500 processor scored just 86 in our benchmarks, but it's quick enough for any office task. If you want to edit video files or take on other tough tasks, though, you should look elsewhere.

This notebook has a low power usage of 9.6W, but its battery is tiny and lasted just under three hours in our test. A bigger 83Wh battery is available, which should last for almost nine hours.

VERDICT

The nc2400 is light and compact, with a great keyboard. If you like the ThinkPad but you want an optical drive, it's a good alternative.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Lightweight; built-in optical drive
- ✓ Larger batteries available; great keyboard
- ✗ Slow in applications

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK Intel Core Duo U2500, 1GB RAM, 60GB disk, Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 12.1in widescreen LCD, 1.5kg
PART CODE EY494ET
SUPPLIER www.laptopsdirect.co.uk
DETAILS www.hp.co.uk



LENOVO ThinkPad X60s

★★★★★

£1,199 inc VAT



The latest ThinkPad retains the 1980s styling of its predecessors, but has been updated to include the latest communications technology.

FEATURES

The X60s has a built-in 3G modem, so you can access the internet at high speed from almost anywhere. A Vodafone SIM card is supplied with the notebook, but you could use any 3G provider (see the box on page 76). The 3G modem supports High-Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) for faster data connections.

The rest of the notebook is more conventional. Its non-widescreen display has a native resolution of 1,024x768 pixels, which is sufficient for office work. It has a matt finish that reduces reflections and is fairly bright, too.

The squarer display makes the ThinkPad compact. It's very thin but feels sturdy, and the chassis doesn't flex at all. There is no optical drive included. This won't bother some users, but others will need to budget for an external drive. The 80GB hard disk is easily big enough for office work, and has shock protection, too.

The keyboard is the best in the group. The action is crisp and the keys provide clear feedback; only HP's nc2400 comes close to being as good. Like the nc2400 it has a touch stick, which is fine for use on the move, and a fingerprint reader.

PERFORMANCE

The low-voltage Intel Core 2 Duo L2400 processor is surprisingly quick, with the X60s scoring a capable 120 overall in our benchmarks. It's easily quick enough for even the most demanding office tasks.

The small battery lasted for an acceptable three hours and 37 minutes. Lenovo also offers two larger batteries for this model.

VERDICT

The absence of any optical drive is annoying, but in every other respect this is a great ultra-portable notebook.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Lightweight; built-in 3G
- ✓ Larger batteries available; great keyboard
- ✗ No optical drive

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK Intel Core Duo L2400, 1GB RAM, 80GB disk, Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950 graphics, 12.1in LCD, 1.3kg
PART CODE UK16DUK
SUPPLIER www.laptopsdirect.co.uk
DETAILS www.lenovo.co.uk



SAMSUNG Q40

★★★★★

£1,175 inc VAT

Samsung's incredibly stylish Q40 is the lightest and slimmest notebook in the group.

FEATURES

The Q40's bright red metallic lid is impressive, but the insides are finished in a rather drab silver. The keyboard keys are a decent size, but they are rather shallow and lack resistance.

The power button is tucked away on the edge of the chassis alongside one of only two USB2 ports and a CompactFlash card reader. A second card reader on the front accepts SD and Memory Stick formats. There's no ExpressCard or CardBus slot for expansion cards.

You can't expect a built-in optical drive on a notebook this size, but Samsung includes an external FireWire drive. The hard disk holds just 60GB, so big media files will fill it quickly. The 12.1in widescreen display has a native resolution of 1,280x768 pixels, rather than the more common 1,280x800. This reduced vertical resolution means you lose a couple of lines of text when reading a Word document or webpage, but it's a minor complaint.

PERFORMANCE

The Q40 comes with 256MB of RAM built into the motherboard, plus 1GB in its only memory slot. Despite this it was the slowest notebook in the group, scoring only 45 overall in our application benchmarks. This is because it's the only notebook here to use a single-core processor. It's fine if you run only simple office applications, but working with video or big image files slows it to a crawl.

Despite the tiny 26.64Wh battery, the Q40 lasted for an amazing four hours and 17 minutes in our test. A six-cell battery with twice the capacity is also available.

VERDICT

The Q40 is stylish and portable, but the keyboard could be better and it's slow in applications. If you want a truly portable notebook, the ThinkPad is a better bet.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Lightweight; great battery life
- ✗ Slow in applications
- ✗ External optical drive

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK Intel Core Solo U1400, 1.25GB RAM, 60GB disk, Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 12.1in widescreen LCD, 1.2kg
PART CODE NP-Q40T001/SUK
SUPPLIER www.misco.co.uk
DETAILS www.samsung.co.uk



SONY Vaio SZ4MN

★★★★★

£1,149 inc VAT

Despite a 13.3in widescreen display, the Vaio is still light enough to carry about comfortably.

FEATURES

The Vaio's display has the same 1,280x800-pixel native resolution as many of the 12.1in widescreen displays in the group. Its larger screen size makes every pixel bigger, though, so you don't find yourself squinting at small fonts. It's quite bright, but has a glossy finish that suffers from reflections under office lighting.

Though wide and deep, the chassis is slender and surprisingly rigid. The keyboard keys have plenty of travel, but don't provide enough resistance. The touch pad works well and a fingerprint reader is also fitted.

The Vaio only has two USB2 ports, but with both CardBus and ExpressCard/34 slots, adding extra capabilities won't be a problem. There's also a built-in optical drive, and a 100GB hard disk with shock protection. Windows Vista Business is installed as standard.

PERFORMANCE

The Intel Core 2 Duo T5600 runs at 1.83GHz. There's an impressive 2GB of RAM as well, so it's suited for taking on memory-hungry tasks. Its overall score was marginally behind the similar Asus notebook, though, thanks to the greater demands of running Windows Vista.

The Vaio is the only notebook here with a dedicated 3D graphics chip. This allows it to run games, but you'll need to reduce settings significantly for them to run smoothly. The battery lasted for two hours and 48 minutes in our battery test. You can also switch the Vaio into Stamina mode, where the graphics chip is disabled. In this mode the battery ran for three hours and 39 minutes, but its benchmark score dropped by two points. Larger batteries are available, but very expensive.

VERDICT

Sony's Vaio SZ4MN is not the smallest model here, but it's still surprisingly portable. If you're looking for a bigger display, this is ideal.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Fast in 2D; dedicated graphics chip
- ✓ Built-in optical drive; big hard disk
- ✗ Rather heavy

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK Intel Core 2 Duo T5600, 2GB RAM, 100GB disk, Nvidia GeForce Go 7400 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 13.3in widescreen LCD, 1.9kg
PART CODE VGNSZ4MN/B.CEK
SUPPLIER www.laptopsdirect.co.uk
DETAILS www.sony.co.uk



TOSHIBA U200-199

★★★★★

£1,025 inc VAT

Toshiba's U200-199 has the fastest processor in the group. It's ideal for those who need plenty of computing power in a small package.

FEATURES

The U200's chassis is a little heavier than most here, weighing the same as the 13.3in Vaio. Unlike the Vaio it looks fairly chunky, but it feels incredibly well built and the outer casing doesn't flex in any way.

There's a built-in optical drive, plus all the ports you'd expect and a CardBus expansion slot. A dedicated volume control and media-playback short cuts make playing media files easier. The 100GB hard disk provides plenty of room and it has shock protection, too.

The keyboard is disappointing. Keys provide little resistance and need more travel. The ThinkPad and nc2400 are better suited for typing long documents. The track pad is small but accurate, and there's a fingerprint reader.

The display has a glossy finish that isn't ideal for all lighting conditions. Otherwise it's fairly good, producing a bright and crisp picture. The hinges mean that it sits lower and further back from the chassis than usual, so you're not as hunched over the screen.

PERFORMANCE

The 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T7200 is the fastest processor here. This was apparent in our application tests, where it produced an overall score of 160. It's impressively fast for an ultra-portable notebook at this price.

The U200 also has an excellent battery life, running for almost four and-a-half hours in our test. However, no larger batteries are available.

VERDICT

The U200-199 is an unusual ultra-portable notebook. It's impressively fast in Windows applications but has a great battery, too. The ThinkPad and Compaq nc2400 are better for most tasks, but if you want a portable powerhouse, this is a good alternative.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Powerful in applications; great battery life
- ✓ Built-in optical drive; big hard disk
- ✗ Rather heavy

ULTRA-PORTABLE NOTEBOOK Intel Core 2 Duo T7200, 1GB RAM, 100GB disk, Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 12.1in widescreen LCD, 1.9kg
PART CODE PLUA1E-01900JEN
SUPPLIER Shoptaptop 0800 161 3060
DETAILS www.toshiba.co.uk

Connecting on the move

If you're going to use your new ultra-portable notebook to work on the move, you'll probably find having a mobile internet connection is essential. Being able to receive the latest version of a presentation while en route to a client could make all the difference, and being able to send and receive email from almost anywhere is extremely useful.

If your mobile phone supports GPRS, you may be able to use it to access the internet. You'll need to connect your notebook to the phone using either Bluetooth or a USB lead, and you may need to install special software on your notebook to use the phone as a modem. GPRS isn't very quick, however, with speeds similar to a dial-up modem. It's fine for email but not so useful when surfing the web or sending large attachments.

THE 3G ALTERNATIVE

A better way to connect on the go is to use 3G. A 3G data connection provides speeds of up to 384kbit/s, while the new HSDPA standard goes up to 1.8Mbit/s. Not all areas are covered by 3G, though, so check the maps available on your mobile phone network's website. If you stray outside a 3G area you will seamlessly be switched over to GPRS.

There are three ways to connect your notebook via 3G. If you have a smartphone that supports 3G data, like many in our Labs test on page 88, you should be able to use it as a modem. As when using a GPRS mobile phone, you'll need to connect it to your computer via Bluetooth or a cable.

Some notebooks, including Lenovo's ThinkPad X60s, have a built-in 3G modem. To use it you simply plug in a SIM card. Finally, you can use a 3G data card. Most fit into a CardBus slot, as ExpressCard versions are yet to be made widely available. You can buy a data card separately, but many mobile phone networks will offer one at a discount or even free when you buy a data contract to go with it.

TARIFF OPTIONS

As with mobile phones, there's a wide range of data tariffs from which to choose. These are primarily defined by the amount of data you can access every month without spending more than your standard contract charge. Some tariffs offer unlimited usage for a fixed fee, but these always have fair-usage limitations so read the small print before buying.

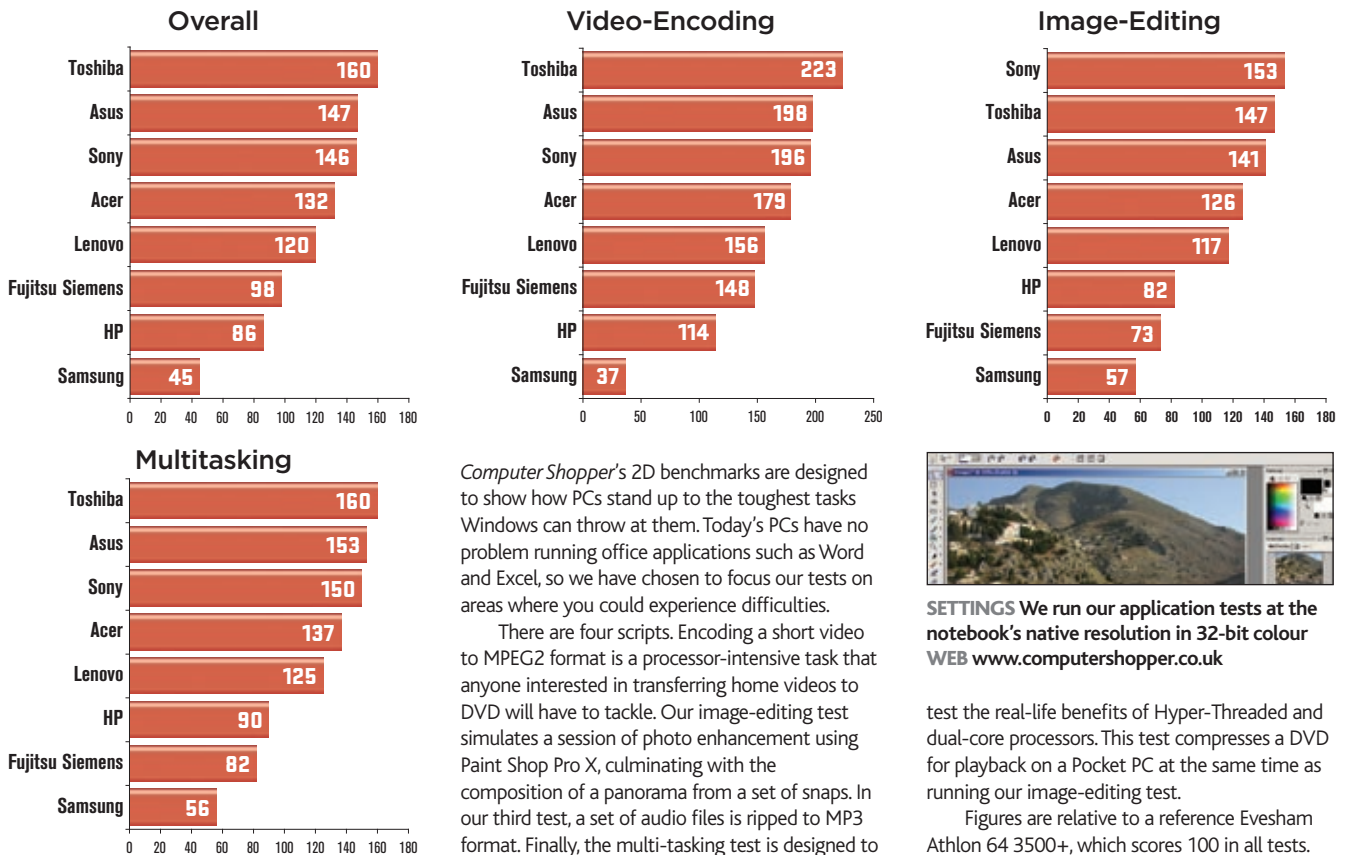
Currently, the best deal is T-Mobile's Web'n'walk Plus. This gives you up to 3GB per month of data access, with VoIP calls prohibited, for £29 a month.



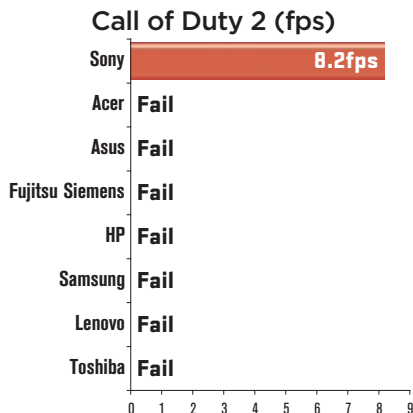
▲ T-Mobile's Web'n'walk package supports WiFi, 3G and GPRS

BENCHMARKS

2D Performance Shopper application tests



3D Performance Call of Duty 2

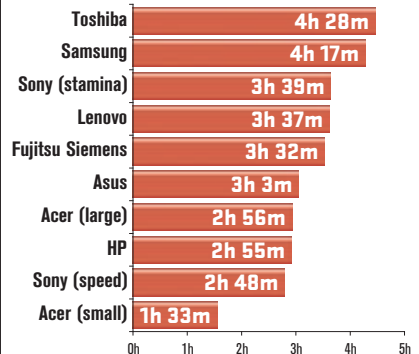


SETTINGS
 1,024x768
 resolution, high
 quality, 4x AA
WEB www.futuremark.com

Call of Duty 2 uses DirectX and is one of the most demanding games available. With a wide range of effects and frenetic action, it tests every aspect of graphics performance.

A good score here indicates that a PC should cope with any graphically intense 3D game coming on to the market today.

Battery life Run time



Our battery test involves light browser use with the display at its middle brightness setting.

Labs verdict Ultra-portable notebooks

We were impressed by the quality of the notebooks in this test, and four stand out as particularly good.

If your budget is limited, Fujitsu Siemens' Amilo V3205 is a good choice. It's far cheaper than most of the ultra-portable notebooks here, but it's still a capable computer. It will be withdrawn from sale very soon, though, so if you want one you should buy it as soon as possible.

If you want something portable but powerful, Toshiba's U200-199 is a good

alternative. It sped through our benchmarks with ease, and has a great battery life. Both notebooks are a little bit on the heavy side at 1.9kg, but they're still portable.

If you want to work on the move, Lenovo's ThinkPad X60s is the best choice. It's light, with a great keyboard and a built-in 3G data card. It's very power efficient, but it performed respectably in our benchmarks. It's an excellently designed notebook and a worthy winner of our Best Buy award. Our only complaint about the X60s is that you'll need



to buy an external DVD drive to go with it. If you can't live without a built-in optical disc drive, consider HP's Compaq nc2400. It has a DVD writer, a good keyboard and is very portable. It's not as powerful as the ThinkPad, but it's a good alternative.

MANUFACTURER	ACER	ASUS	FUJITSU SIEMENS	HP
Model	TravelMate 3043WTMi	W5F	Amilo V3205	Compaq nc2400
Rating	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo T5500	Intel Core 2 Duo T5600	Intel Core Duo T2050	Intel Core Duo U2500
Speed	1.66GHz	1.83GHz	1.6GHz	1.2GHz
Memory installed	1GB	1GB	512MB	1GB
Memory slots (free)	2 (0)	1 (0)	2 (1)	1 (0)
Max memory	4GB	1.5GB	2GB	2GB
BIOS	Acer	AMI	Phoenix	HP
Dimensions (HxWxD)	32x304x234mm	31x305x240mm	32x299x220mm	30x282x213mm
Weight	1.7kg	1.8kg	1.9kg	1.5kg
Sound	RealTek HD	RealTek HD	Conexant HD	SoundMax HD
Pointing device	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch stick
DISPLAY				
Screen size	12.1in widescreen LCD	12.1in widescreen LCD	12.1in widescreen LCD	12.1in widescreen LCD
Graphics adaptor	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950
Graphics outputs	D-sub	D-sub	DVI, S-video	D-sub
Graphics memory	224MB shared	224MB shared	128MB shared	224MB shared
Native resolution	1,280x800	1,280x800	1,280x800	1,280x800
STORAGE				
Hard disk (available)	120GB (106GB)	100GB (91GB)	60GB (56GB)	60GB (51GB)
Optical drive	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL
Optical drive speeds	Lite-On SSM-8515S (8X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 5X DVD-RAM, 24X CD-R, 16X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM)	LG GWA-4082N (8X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 2.4X DVD+R DL, 24X CD-R, 16X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM)	LG GWA-4082N (8X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 2.4X DVD+R DL, 24X CD-R, 16X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM)	Matshita UJ-842S (8X DVD-R, 8X DVD+R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 2.4X DVD+R DL, 5X DVD-RAM, 24X CD-R, 16X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM)
PORTS AND EXPANSION				
USB2 ports	3	3	4	2
FireWire	1	1	1	1
Infrared port	Yes	No	No	No
Bluetooth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Networking	10/100/1,000, 802.11a/b/g	10/100, 802.11a/b/g	10/100, 802.11a/b/g	10/100/1,000, 802.11a/b/g
PC Card slots	1x CardBus	1x ExpressCard/54	1x ExpressCard/54	1x CardBus
Modem	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Legacy ports	None	None	None	None
Memory card reader	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, xD	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick	None
Other ports	Optical S/PDIF	Coaxial S/PDIF output	Optical S/PDIF	Port replicator for docking station
EXTRAS				
Carrying case	No	Yes	No	No
Direct CD control	No	No	No	No
Operating system	Windows XP Professional	Windows XP Professional	Windows XP Professional	Windows XP Professional
Operating system restore option	Restore partition	Restore partition, restore disc	Windows disc	Backup and recovery software
Software included	CyberLink PowerDVD 6, Norton Internet Security 2006, NTI CD & DVD Maker 7.5.0.2203	Asus DVD 6, Nero OEM 6	Norton Internet Security 2006	Sonic Digital Media Plus, InterVideo WinDVD 5
Other standard accessories	Built-in 1.3MP webcam, Bluetooth VoIP phone, extra battery	Built-in 1.3MP webcam	None	Fingerprint reader
Optional extras	Six-cell battery £99 including VAT	None	None	Nine-cell battery (EH768AA) £129 including VAT
BUYING INFORMATION				
Company founded	1979	1989	1999	1939
Employees	6,000	68	Not disclosed	140,000
Technical support staff	150+	10	40	Not disclosed
Technical support times	9am-5pm Mon-Fri	9am-6pm Mon-Fri	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat	8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri
Parts and labour warranty	One year RTB	Two years' collect and return	One year collect and return	Three years' collect and return
Price including VAT	£1,070	£1,158	£727	£1,045
Price excluding VAT	£911	£986	£619	£889
Details	www.acer.co.uk	http://uk.asus.com	www.fujitsu-siemens.co.uk	www.hp.co.uk
Supplier	www.laptopsdirect.co.uk	www.laptopsdirect.co.uk	www.laptopshop.co.uk	www.laptopsdirect.co.uk
Part number	LX.TFQ06.044	W5F-C0071P	VFY:APED320564E1GB	EY494ET



LENOVO	SAMSUNG	SONY	TOSHIBA
ThinkPad X60s	Q40	Vaio SZ4MN	U200-199
★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
Intel Core Duo L2400	Intel Core Solo U1400	Intel Core 2 Duo T5600	Intel Core 2 Duo T7200
1.66GHz	1.2GHz	1.83GHz	2.0GHz
1GB	1.25GB	2GB	1GB
2 (0)	1 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)
4GB	1.25GB	2GB	4GB
Lenovo	Phoenix	Phoenix	Phoenix
28x268x211mm	26x288x198mm	32x315x234mm	34x299x225mm
1.3kg	1.2kg	1.9kg	1.9kg
SoundMax HD	RealTek HD	SigmaTel HD	SoundMax HD
Touch stick	Touch pad	Touch pad	Touch pad
12.1in LCD	12.1in widescreen LCD	13.3in widescreen LCD	12.1in widescreen LCD
Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	Nvidia GeForce Go 7400	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950
D-sub	D-sub	D-sub	D-sub
224MB shared	128MB shared	128MB dedicated	128MB shared
1,024x768	1,280x768	1,280x800	1,280x800
80GB (70GB)	60GB (49GB)	100GB (84GB)	100GB (93GB)
None	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL	DVD+/-RW +/-DL
N/A	TSST TS-L632D (8X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 6X DVD+R DL, 6X DVD-R DL, 24X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM)	Matshita UJ-852S (8X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 24X CD-R, 16X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM)	Matshita UJ-842S (8X DVD-R, 8X DVD+R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 2.4X DVD+R DL, 5X DVD-RAM, 24X CD-R, 16X CD-RW, 8X DVD-ROM, 24X CD-ROM)
3	2	2	3
1	1	1	1
Yes	No	No	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10/100/1,000, 802.11a/b/g	10/100/1,000, 802.11a/b/g	10/100, 802.11a/b/g	10/100, 802.11a/b/g
1x CardBus	None	1x ExpressCard/34	1x CardBus
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
None	None	None	None
Secure Digital	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, CompactFlash	Memory Stick Duo/Pro	Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, xD
Port replicator for docking station	None	None	None
No	No	No	No
No	No	No	No
Windows XP Professional	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Business	Windows XP Professional
Restore partition, restore disc	Restore partition, restore disc	Restore partition, restore disc	Restore disc
Diskeeper Lite 5.41, Picasa 2	None	Click to DVD 2.6, InterVideo WinDVD for Vaio 8, SonicStage 4.2, Roxio Easy Media Creator 9	InterVideo WinDVD Creator 2 Platinum, InterVideo WinDVD 5
Fingerprint reader	None	Built-in 0.3MP webcam	Fingerprint reader
Eight-cell high-capacity battery £119 including VAT, four-cell enhanced-capacity battery £90 including VAT	Six-cell battery £100 including VAT	Extended battery (VGP-BPL2C) £250 including VAT	None
1984	1971	1946	1985
19,000	Not disclosed	162,000	Not disclosed
42	Not disclosed	40	Not disclosed
9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9am-5pm Mon-Fri	8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri	8am-6pm Mon-Fri
Three years' customer carry-in	One year collect and return	One year collect and return	One year collect and return
£1,199	£1,175	£1,149	£1,025
£1,020	£1,000	£978	£872
www.lenovo.co.uk	www.samsung.co.uk	www.sony.co.uk	www.toshiba.co.uk
www.laptopsdirect.co.uk	www.misco.co.uk	www.laptopsdirect.co.uk	Shoplaptop 0800 161 3060
UK16DUK	NP-Q40T001/SUK	VGNSZ4MN/B.CEK	PLUA1E-01900JEN